

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: SPANISH LANGUAGE DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION SEMINAR

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REF: (A) STATE 67204 (B) LA PAZ 2429

1. SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION
DISAPPOINTED THAT EMBASSY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE PARTICIPANT FOR SUBJECT SEMINAR. WE BELIEVE THAT BOLIVIA'S CONCERN WITH THE GROWING DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AND ITS IMPORTANT ROLE IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE UNITED STATES ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE, ARE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF NOMINATING A PARTICIPANT FOR THIS SEMINAR.

2. IN RECENT YEARS A NUMBER OF BOLIVIAN SCIENTIST AND EDUCATORS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM; THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PLANNING PROGRAMS WITH BOLIVIA' AND THE UNITED STATES HASE SENT AT LEAST ONE
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DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION TREATMENT EXPERT TO BOLIVIA, DR.

PETER BOURNE, THEN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SAO, TO CON-
SULT WITH CONCERNED BOLIVIANS ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS. BE-

CAUSE OF THESE AND OTHER INDICATORS, WE BELIEVE THE
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO BE GAINED BY BOLIVIAN
PARTICIPANT IN THE SEMINAR COULD BE PUT TO VERY USEFUL
APPLICATION IN BOLIVIA, ESPECIALLY IN WORKING WITH FUTURE
BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS
IN THAT COUNTRY.

3. WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE EMBASSY'S COMMENT THAT
IN FUTURE YEARS PROGRAMS OF NARCOTICS EDUCATION AND PRE-
VENTION WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS RATHER
THAN THROUGH BILATERAL EFFORTS. ONE GOAL OF THE SEMINAR
IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE EXPERIENCE IN DRUG ABUSE
EDUCATION AND PREVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES OVER THE LAST
FEW YEARS HAS APPLICABILITY AND CROSS-CULTURAL SIGNIFI-
CANCE TO LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. NO OTHER COUNTRY HAS
EXPERIENCED SUCH AN EXTENSIVE DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND
PREVENTION EFFORT; AND MANY OF OUR SUCCESSES, AS WELL AS
OUR FAILURES, MAY BE VERY IMPORTANT TO DEVELOPING
NATIONS WHO MAY FACE FUTURE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH
WE CERTAINLY AGREE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AND UNESCO AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL HAVE IMPORTANT
ROLES TO PLAY IN THIS AREA, WE ALSO BELIEVE BILATERAL
UNITED STATES PROJECTS IN THIS FIELD MAY CONTINUE IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. WE REQUEST THAT EMBASSY RECONSIDER MAKING APPROACH
TO GOB TO SEEK A PARTICIPANT FOR SUBJECT SEMINAR. THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HAS SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL TIES
WITH THE GOB AND SUGGESTS THAT POSSIBLY ISRAEL DILLEGAS,
THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SECONDARY URBAN EDUCATION IN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OR ALEJANDRO PEREZ, THE
NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR RURAL EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUGGESTING POSSIBLE
NOMINEE AVAILABLE WITH DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE,
WE HOPE BOLIVIA WILL CONSIDER SPONSORING AT LEAST ONE
PARTICIPANT TO THE CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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